DISCONTINUATION OF TRAIN BETWEEN BHATNI AND GORAKHPUR

1081. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the passenger train running between Bhatni, Varanasi, Siman and Gorakhpur has now been discontinued ;

(b) if so, when and the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps being taken for the development of railway facilities in the area to meet the transportation needs of the public ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No regular service running over Varanasi-Bhatni-Siwan-Gorakhpur section has been discontinued in the recent past.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The gauge conversion of Metre Gauge to Broad Gauge on Salempur-Barhajbazar and Chhapra-Aunrihar sections has been taken up. This will augment the capacity of these two sections in this area.

[*English*]

LPG BOTTLING PLANT AT MALAPURAM, KERALA

1082. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made on the work on the bottling plant of the Indian Oil Corporation in Malappuram district in Kerala;

(b) when it is expected to be completed and commissioned ; and

(c) the amount spent on the project so far ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) The Plant is expected to be completed and commissioned by November, 1991.

(c) Rs. 357 lakhs (Approx.) till 30-6-1991.

MADRAS RAPID TRANSPORT SYSTEM

1083. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHEE TINDIVANAM : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) when was the Madras Rapid Transport System taken up for execution and the progress made so far;

(b) the original estimate of this project and the revised estimate as on date; and

(c) by which time it is likely to be completed and the extent of funds spent thereon every year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) The project was taken up in 1983-84 and the overall physical progress achieved upto June 1991 is 45 per cent.

(b) Original estimated cost (at 1980-81 price level) was Rs. 53.46 crores and present sanctioned cost (at 1986-87 price level) is Rs. 108.21 crores.

(c) Completion of the project would depend upon acquisition, by the State Government of Tamil Nadu, of the remaining land needed for this project, and availability of funds in the coming years.

Expenditure incurred upto 31-3-91 was Rs. 53.15 crores.

HOTELS IN PRIVATE SECTOR

1084. SHRI RABI RAY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to place some of its hotels in the private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b) The Government have yet to take a final decision in this regard.